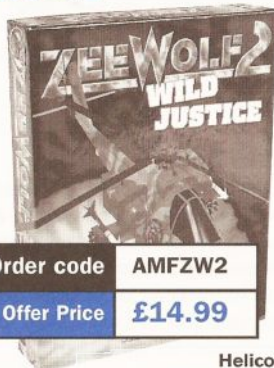


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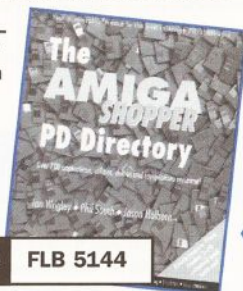
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AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **70** Christmas 1996



Dear Subscriber

Here we are in the last issue of this year (although the first issue of 1997 will be out before the end of 1996) and what a year it has been. Our detractors claimed we'd not make it this far, but we are soldiering on. The future may not be too bright at the moment but at least the candle is still burning. It has been uplifting this month to receive so many letters of support from loyal readers. Believe it or not, it is you that we toil late into the nights for and it's good to know we don't do so in vain. A heart felt thanks to you all.

On the wider horizon, 1996 has been another unsettling year for Amiga owners. With still no sign of a new machine and yet another legal wrangle over the ownership of the Amiga, many owners have become disillusioned and moved on to the PC. It must be stressed that the PC does not offer a simple future. Constant developments mean constant upgrading. There is no chance that a PC bought now will still be capable of running new software in a few years time. Add to that the fact that the home software market is thought of as any product up to £1000 and you can see that the "other side" is a very expensive one. The Amiga market, on the other hand, has continued to develop innovative products, but they have started to come from smaller companies. It does mean though that there is still plenty to keep Amiga owners occupied.

So with some sadness, but also with optimism we bid farewell to 1996 and welcome 1997. See you next year.

David Taylor
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

Subscribers^{disk}

What's in the Christmas stocking? **David Taylor** plays Santa and passes out the programs crammed onto this month's exclusive Subscribers' disk.

This month's disk contains a real mix of programs and also the set of pictures from Eric Schwartz's unofficial Amiga Grassroots campaign. The Survivor set of pictures are designed to be put anywhere and to be used by Amiga owners to increase awareness of the Amiga platform in an honest and useful way. If there isn't the official advertising we need. Eric has decided we might as well do it ourselves. So we thought we'd better pass the images along to you so that you can do whatever you can. Why not drop us and Eric a line to let us know of any way you use the pictures?

Argue

This program performs a rather surprising function. It can add MUI interfaces to any Shell command. This means that if you have a command, say a shell only animation viewer, and you are sick of typing out all the arguments each time, you can quickly

create an interface with it all on. It works through installing the software to your machine and then having each interface stored as a text file with the information in it (see the guide or one of the many example interfaces for details) which has Argue as a tool type. Argue then passes information from the smart interface to the command. It means that anyone can now create interfaces for those programs which lack then. Please do send in any new interfaces you create for inclusion on a future disk.

AmigaNCP

A surprising number of Amiga owners have one of Psion's palmtop computers and quite a few have asked whether there is a way to link them to their Amigas in the way PC owners can do with theirs. This software is the answer and it allows you to transfer files between Psions and your Amiga using the NCP protocol. To use it you need your Amiga and a Psion S3 (or other which features Remote Link, although



The Amiga starts its fight back here with the grassroots campaign instigated by Eric Schwartz.

you can actually use it to connect to any other system which uses NCP) and a 3-Link serial cable.

Cycle to menu

This package allows you to enhance your interfaces. It patches the system so that pop up menus actually scroll down rather than just appearing. It is a small thing, but with configurable preferences, it does mean that you can have interfaces, like your preferences, working in a neater way.

MPack

If you receive files via E-Mail from other platforms, you may discover that they are now packed in the MIME format and not simply uuencoded. This is a problem and I've had a few readers mailing me trying to find a way to decode MIME messages with no success. Here is the answers as MPack can both pack and unpack MIME and also deal with uuencoded data. A complete solution in one handy command. It doesn't have GUI, but read the docs for information on using it and then build one using Argue if you want.

MPIndex

Windows95 has a help system which allows you to do specific searches for information. Although Amigaguide uses a similar hypertext approach to help, it doesn't have this help feature. Until now. MPIndex

is a suite of programs for building help file indices and an interface for displaying them and searching them as well as then linking to the part of the amigaguide that is relevant.

QT

Quicktime movies are used extensively on both the Mac and the PC, but until now haven't been playable on the Amiga. This software now allows you to although you do really need a fast processor. There are plenty of QT movies on the Internet for you to view.

IconBar

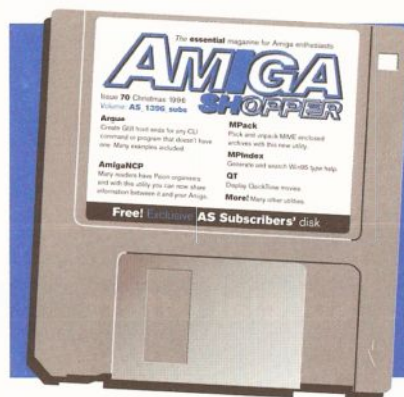
This is a simple program launcher designed by the author for those who want to save memory and avoid loading Workbench. It displays pictures as icons on the bar and takes the instructions for program launching from individual text files associated to the pictures (numbered simply 1-9).

And the rest

There are also a few more programs to be found on the disk. There's DiskSqueeze which is a system for packing up whole disks using LZX compression (it requires LZX) in a much more efficient way than DMS and Lupe which magnifies sections of the screen. As well as the Survivor pictures we've already mentioned, there's a picture on the Subscriber's disk itself which was submitted to us by Arnold Szerletics from Hungary.

Installation

To install your Subscribers disk, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main Coverdisks at hand because the Subscriber's disk needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks by loading Workbench and using the script on the first Coverdisk. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.



- Argue
- AmigaNCP
- Cycle to menu
- MPack
- MPIndex
- QT
- IconBar
- DiskSqueeze
- Lupe
- Survivor